



SAN JUAN COUNTY COLORADO

1557 GREENE STREET

P.O. BOX 466

SILVERTON, COLORADO 81433

PHONE/FAX 970-387-5766 sanjuancounty@frontier.net

John P. EPR

1259778 - R8 SDMS

November 22, 2011

James B. Martin
USEPA REGION 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Mail Code: 8RA
Denver, CO 80202-1129

Dear Mr. Martin:

Please be advised that the San Juan County Commissioners unanimously support Sunnyside Gold's proposal for a collaborative approach to improving the water quality of the upper Animas River. San Juan County would encourage your organization to participate in this collaborative effort and to bring any resources that may be available to the table.

San Juan County believes that this collaboration will allow us to achieve the water quality improvements that are needed in a more efficient and economic manner than by pursuing the designation of a superfund site for the Upper Gladstone area. Additionally, the collaborative model does not present any of the perceived negative connotations that a superfund designation may bring to the community.

The Commissioners fully recognize that if this collaborative process fails a superfund designation may be our only alternative for improved water quality. If you have any questions, please contact our County Administrator William Tookey at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Ernest F. Kuhlman, Chair
San Juan County Commissioners

Route to
- Martin H
- Bill M, Steve W
- Mike H

RECEIVED
U.S. EPA Region 8
RA's Office

NOV 28 2011

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT A COLLOBORATIVE PROCESS TO IMPROVE THE WATER QUALITY
OF THE UPPER ANIMAS RIVER BASIN

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of San Juan County, Colorado has supported responsible mining as a use by right in San Juan County; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of San Juan County has supported the efforts of the Animas River Stakeholder Group to improve water quality within the upper basin of the Animas River; and

WHEREAS, Sunnyside Gold has contributed nearly \$15 Million Dollars to previous reclamation and remediation efforts to improve water quality; and

WHEREAS, Sunnyside Gold has offered to contribute \$6.5 Million Dollars towards a collaborative process to help to address the water quality problems of the Upper Animas River; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of San Juan County believe that the collaborative process provides the most efficient and economic manner for addressing these water quality issues; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of San Juan County believe that the collaborative process does not present any of the perceived negative connotations that a superfund designation may bring to the community.

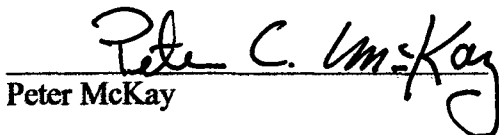
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County fully supports the collaborative process as proposed by Sunnyside Gold; and

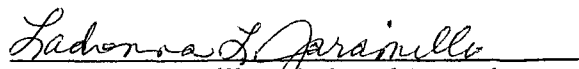
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County strongly encourages the Environmental Protection Agency, the Bureau of Land Management, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Animas River Stakeholders Group, and neighboring property owners to fully participate in this Collaborative Process and to provide any and all available resources necessary to contribute to a successful resolution to these water quality issues.

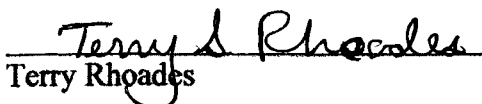
READ, PASSED AND ADOPTED this 22nd day of November, 2011 by the Board of County Commissioners of San Juan County, Colorado.


Ernest Kuhlman, Chairman

Attest:


Peter McKay


Ladonna Jaramillo, Clerk and Recorder


Terry Rhoades